

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, February 27, 2006 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works Room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Leon Trachtman, and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Brenda Lorenz, and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Council members Gil Satterly and Ann Hunt were present. Absent were Park Board members, Garnet Peck and Nancy Offutt, Council member Gerry Keen and Parks Staff, Lee Booth, Chris Foley and Brian Tunis.

Paula convened the Board at 4:34 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 23 meeting. Leon motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Softball information was sent out last week. The Men's rule meeting is scheduled for March 20. The Coed rule meeting is scheduled for March 22. League play begins May 8. Fees are due April 14. The fees for the Men's League will be \$500.00 and fees for the Coed are \$350.00.
- Announced Cindy Tomovich will be speaking later concerning Global Fest. Her group will be hosting a special event on the river, which will be held on the Friday prior to Global Fest.

Parks – Joe reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Noted inspections are available.
- Currently cutting and mulching footpaths in Celery Bog Nature Area.
- Installing new diving standard at pool, helping locate and repair main drain leak at pool.
- Work continues on reconditioning signs throughout the parks.
- Preparation of equipment for the warmer months is underway.
- Regular scheduled maintenance as needed.
- Currently working on signs, including Adopt-A-Spot signs.
- Working with the design of various landscaped areas on the Northwest Greenway Trail extension at Sagamore Park Centre, a piece in Happy Hollow Park, and a couple of other locations. We will be installing new kiosks along the trail system and a kiosk that is a trailhead sign at Trailhead Park.
- A lot of designing and cleaning is taking place with all of the planting beds.

Paula noted she received a call from one of the volunteers from the Lilly Nature Center. The caller noted that people interested in attending the Wednesdays in the Wild program have missed the entrance due to the difficulty of seeing the small sign for the Celery Bog. Joe noted we are putting new signs up at the north end on Cumberland and at the south end on Lindberg on the railing that is along the trails. There are also standard, brown, highway signs on both sides of the road before the entrance.

Recreation – Pennie reported on the following in Chris' absence:

- Grade school basketball programs have finished. Fifth & sixth graders finished their basketball season on Saturday, Feb. 18. Thanks to the parent volunteers and the

Sigma Chi fraternity for providing the boys team coaches and their coordination of the program.

- Forty-four fourth grade basketball players finished their season last Saturday, Feb. 25. Thanks also to the West Lafayette School Corporation for the use of the facilities for the grade school basketball programs.

- There was a nice turnout for the Skating Center's third annual Dare to Bear skate. Approximately 100 skaters wore their swimming attire and other decorative items. We would like to thank Papa John's pizza for providing pizza for the participants. Radio station 96.5 reported live from the rink and provided prizes.

- The Riverside Skating Center will be closing soon. Our current schedule has us closing at the end of the first weekend in March. We have yet to make that date due to warm weather. This year the rink will be open until March 12, weather permitting.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- There have been 1,348 registrations for our winter classes compared to 1,537 registrations last year at this time, a decrease of 12%.

- Jeannette Rehmel had an art show the past month featuring work by her Morton students. She had a very nice crowd at her opening reception on February 2. Bette Goodrich has an art show this month for her Morton students. There will be an opening reception Thursday, March 02, 7:00-9:00pm.

- I have been working on a number of grant requests. I sent a letter of intent to Alcoa Foundation requesting money for two new kilns for the pottery program. I am going to submit a request to the Community Foundation for money to replace ceiling tiles in three rooms at Morton. In the next few months, I will be sending grant requests to TAF for a NCHS grant and to SIA Foundation for additional money, hopefully to complete the project of replacing ceiling tiles in rooms at Morton.

Beautification & Stewardship

Joe noted the report information was included with the report for parks.

YMCA Request

Joe introduced Kris Kocken, a representative for the YMCA. She presented information pertaining to the YMCA's plans to use the Wabash Heritage Trail for a running event. This would be the third run, in a three-run series, to help people prepare for the Indianapolis Mini-Marathon. The starting and ending point for the event would be Tapawingo Park. They anticipate approximately 80-100 runners. The event date is April 8, beginning at 8:30am, finishing by around 10:30am. Permission has have been obtained from the other two parks departments. There will be volunteer staff to help with the event. West Lafayette Parks & Recreation has been provided with a certificate of insurance. Mike motioned for the Board to endorse the YMCA's plans for its special event as presented.

Canoeing Event

Pennie introduced Cindy Tomovich, who discussed a canoeing event to take place on Friday, the weekend of Global Fest; children from Cumberland Elementary school will be participating. In celebration of global diversity, Main Academy America, Inc. will be conducting a River Regatta as the first day of Global Fest, West Lafayette, IN, 2006.

Old Business

Tapawingo Park Plaza

Joe noted a copy of the Project Summary and Notice to Bidders for the plaza area was distributed in the packets. Joe discussed the renovation plans of the plaza area, noting they will be asking for TIF money through the Redevelopment Commission to do all of the infrastructure repair work, and at the same time use our money that is dedicated for Wabash Corridor development projects for the fountain. After the purchase of the fountain, including the design, we will be looking at a total of approximately \$53,000.00, from the Wabash Fund. The Wabash Fund will still have a balance of \$40,521.00, partly because we have now completed our Riverside Skating Center fundraising campaign. All of the pledges are in, and it has finally wrapped up. Including the \$240,185.00 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund grant and the \$100,000.00 Build Indiana grant, the total that we raised for the campaign was \$709,948.78. The foundation still has part of that, and we can ask for it at some time, in the event we run out of money and want to do more things along the Wabash River. We do have another phase, which would further improve the area between the playground and the Riverside Skating Center. It would more adequately serve as a outdoor entertainment venue for Dancing in the Streets, Riverfest, Taste of Tippecanoe, and the festival we are currently working on for this fall, an Arts in the Park festival. We hope to receive acceptable bids in March, get underway in April, and try to finish up in July.

Paula noted the Foundation Board was informed that Dubois Park was a possibility for a naming opportunity to somebody. So far, no one has come forward. The name will remain Dubois Park until further notice.

New Business

Trail Request

Joe presented a preliminary request from George Bittles on behalf of the United Way. It is for April 2007. He is trying to coordinate the planning of a 5k, 10k, and 15k run for a United Way event. They are considering requesting exclusive use of the Cattail Trail from Cherry to Lindberg, all the way through Celery Bog Nature Area, to Cumberland and 52. Joe explained that this was a unique request, which might pose some problems. The consensus of the Board is that exclusive use of the trail is not a feasible option.

West Lafayette School Board

N/A

Wabash River

Paula reported various items discussed at the last Wabash River Parkway Commission meeting. One item discussed is looking at what their role is in connection with what the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is doing. The Wabash River Parkway Commission feels it is more of an educational organization and would like to expand somewhat. They are thinking of setting up some scout programs where they could do badge work with the Girl Scouts about the river. There is a committee forming with some of the scout officials to talk about that possibility. They also discussed getting another group to sponsor a run along the Wabash Heritage Trail, the morning of Riverfest, since most of the Riverfest activities do not begin until noon. There was also an idea of forming a river seminar/overnight canoe trip that would take you so far down

river, stopping at various places to learn the history of the river. Cindy Tomovich has been invited to share her ideas with the Commission at the next meeting, April 13. Mike reported the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation met the end of January, and will meet again in March. Most of the meeting dealt with Stan Lambert's administration aspect of his position and the issues related to his position. There was some discussion of the follow-up to the work of the landscape architecture undergraduate class that did all of the design work for the levee area and where that will be displayed, etc.

Paula noted one thing that Stan Lambert brought to the attention of the Commission is the possibility of sponsoring an art exhibit; two artists are providing an exhibit through the State Commission. Joe noted there was discussion of possibly using Morton Community Center, if scheduling permitted its use. However, it now looks as if the West Lafayette Public Library will be used for the exhibit.

Other

Transfer Request

Joe reported we are requesting the Council to do a transfer from our Cumulative Capital Development appropriation, Parks Improvements, for a total of \$12,700.00, to the same fund, different account, Contract Services. This transfer is necessary to allow us to spend \$5,000.00 that we originally asked for, which was put into Improvements, but now needs put into Contract Services, to allow us to do a seal coat on the old part of the Wabash Heritage Trail. This will begin a routine annual maintenance that will extend the life of our asphalt, by double or so. We also want to move \$7,700.00 from Improvements to Contract Services so that we can pay to have the turf fertilization program continued on the soccer playing area in Cumberland Park and on the ball fields there. It will also be used to do re-striping and painting of the Happy Hollow Park parking area. We are doing quite a bit of other work out of Improvements, including fence repair and improvement work around the Arni Cohen softball fields and continuing with the Happy Hollow Park restrooms renovation. We will also be installing two Lommel playground replacement pods, the playground pod at Tapawingo Park, and one replacement piece at University Farm Park. Altogether, we received \$100,000.00 in Cumulative Capital Development and \$20,000.00 in Economic Development for improvements.

Hockerman Children

Previous discussion about a boulder with a plaque lead the group behind this venture to proceed with ordering the boulder. Instead of placing the boulder next to the playground, it was decided that a more appropriate location would be that of the Children's Garden in Happy Hollow Park. Additional funds are being provided for the purchase of two benches to be placed near the boulder and for landscaping. Joe presented a sketch of the proposed layout of the area for the Park Board to view.

Ann Hunt noted she attended the Penguin Fling on Saturday at the Riverside Skating Center, which was a very nice event. She was surprised and pleased that there were so many skaters, which she believed were independent of the fling, noting that it was very pleasant.

Purchase Orders

N/A

Pay Claims

Mike motioned for claims to be paid. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary